

CIRCULAR BY THE BISHOP OF AUCKLAND

The following circular has been issued by his Lordship Bishop Cleary for publication:—

URGENT CIRCULAR TO THE CLERGY.

Ponsonby, Auckland,
July 7, 1913.

DEAR REV FATHER,—

Kindly press on with the work of securing the signatures of all Catholic electors of both sexes in your parish to the Catholic petitions to both Houses of Parliament against the Bible-in-Schools proposals. I have this morning learned that 'other petitions' are also being circulated among Catholics. Kindly give or send word *without a moment's delay* to all your people in every part of your parish, *urgently requesting them to sign no petition to Parliament in connection with the Bible-in-Schools question except two petitions duly authorised for Catholics*, and distributed to your people through you. By signing any other petitions Catholics would be *unwittingly giving support to principles which all true and loyal Catholics repudiate*. Kindly treat this as a matter requiring your urgent attention. If any Catholics have unwittingly signed any of the petitions referred to, kindly ask them to notify those concerned that their signatures were given under a misapprehension, and that these signatures are revoked.

I remain, sincerely yours,

* HENRY W. CLEARY,
Bishop of Auckland.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 5.

Rev. Father A. T. Herring, S.M., of St. Anne's, left for Nelson on Monday, where he is to conduct a retreat.

Misses Sullivan and Haran, of Pahiatua, who are on a visit to England and Ireland, arrived in London on Monday. A cablegram stated that they had met Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton, and Rev. Father T. McKenna, of Pahiatua, in London.

On last Sunday special devotions were held at St. Anne's—the church of the confraternity—which is affiliated with the arch-confraternity at Rome. Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., preached, and Rev. Father A. T. Herring, S.M., enrolled many new members, after which there was a procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin, whose statue was borne by the Children of Mary.

The Wellington Catholic Education Board met on last Friday evening under the presidency of his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy being also present. The Board's year ended on June 30, and the officers are now preparing the first year's report and balance sheet for presentation to the parish meeting, which will be called for Sunday next.

A wedding of much interest was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on Wednesday, June 4, by Rev. Father Barra, the contracting parties being Mr. Ernest Taylor, of Brooklyn, and Miss Sarah McErlean, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. McErlean, of Tasman street. The bride was attended by her sister (Miss Lizzie McErlean), Mr. George Bruce acting as groomsmen. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, 'Culbann House,' where a number of friends, including Mrs. John McAleer and Miss Maud McAleer, of Christchurch (aunt and cousin respectively of the bride), sat down to breakfast. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were the recipients of a very large number of useful presents, including a number of cheques.

On last Saturday night, Mrs. T. J. McCosker, of Island Bay, died at her residence at the early age of 35, fortified by the rites of the Church. Mrs. McCosker was only a week ill from an attack of pneumonia which ended in her death. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning, a Requiem Mass being celebrated at St. Anne's. Rev. Father W. J. Peoples attended deceased in her last illness and conducted the burial service. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. McCosker and his five young children in their sad bereavement. Mr. McCosker is a prominent Church worker, a member of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation and the H.A.C.B. Society, and at the funeral those bodies were represented, the H.A.C.B. Society's officers acting as pall-bearers, whilst Mr. Geo. Girling-Butcher attended on behalf of the Catholic Federation.—R.I.P.

A quiet but pretty wedding was solemnised in St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulcott street, on Wednesday last, the contracting parties being Miss Rose Delia Walsh, formerly of Palmerston North, and Mr. John Fenton Stratford, of the railway service, Ohakune, and third son of the late Mr. John Stratford, J.P. Rev. Father Joseph Herring, S.M., celebrated the Nuptial Mass, and the bride was given away by Mr. James Stratford. Miss Peggio Burke and the two little nieces of the bridegroom (Ellie and Phyllis Stratford) were bridesmaids, whilst Messrs Joseph and Paul Stratford attended the bridegroom. After the ceremony the party adjourned to the residence of the bridegroom's mother, where breakfast was partaken of. The honeymoon is being spent in a North Island tour. There was quite a number of gifts presented to the happy couple.

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Aloysius' branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held last Wednesday evening in the Hibernian Hall, under the presidency of Bro. John Fagan, B.P. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was present. The election of officers, after a keen contest, resulted as follows:—President, Bro. T. Pender, P.P.; vice-president, Bro. M. McCarthy; secretary, Bro. W. H. Giles (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. Jas. Stratford (re-elected); warden, Bro. P. McCarthy; guardian, Bro. J. P. Murphy; sick visitors, Bros. J. Fagan and T. P. Gill; delegates to the district council, Bros. J. Stratford, W. H. Giles, T. Pender, and J. Fagan; delegate to the Friendly Societies' Dispensary, Bro. J. Bradley; representatives to the Newtown committee, Bros. J. Stratford, J. Fagan, T. P. Gill, and W. H. Giles; auditors, Bros. J. Bradley and T. P. Gill. A motion to secede from the N.Z. District, with the object of forming a central N.Z. District, was carried after a very keen discussion. There were only two dissentients.

The miserable weather conditions prevailing was the cause of the small attendance at St. Anne's Hall last Thursday evening, when his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop repeated his lecture on the aims and objects of the Catholic Federation. Mr. P. J. O'Regan presided, and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy was present. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was ably delivered, Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon, LL.B., proposed a hearty vote of thanks to his Grace for his able and interesting lecture and his kindness in coming to Newtown under such unfavorable weather conditions. Those who braved the elements to attend the lecture, he felt sure, were amply repaid by the intellectual treat which his Grace had given them that evening. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. E. Gamble and carried by acclamation. His Grace briefly replied, and moved a hearty vote of thanks to their chairman. During the evening items were rendered by Miss Agnes Segrief, Mr. W. Logan, and Miss Henderson.

The half-yearly meeting of the Sacred Heart branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Friday evening. There was a good attendance of members, presided over by Bro. J. A. Humphrey. One new member was admitted and sixteen candidates were proposed. The election of officers for the ensuing six months resulted as follows:—President, Bro. J. A. Humphrey; vice-president, Bro. M. McKinney; secretary, Bro. J. W. Callaghan; treasurer, Rev. J. P. Hickson, S.M.; warden, Bro. H. J. Tabor; guardian, Bro. J. Maher;



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